

To the Members of the California State Assembly

I am returning Assembly Bill 391 without my signature.

Unemployment benefits are predicated on the principle that workers should receive assistance when they have lost their job through no fault of their own. This principle is key to maintaining the balance that prevents both employers and workers from taking precipitous actions to affect unemployment insurance payouts.

This bill disrupts that balance by allowing workers to receive unemployment benefits when they have initiated the process for a strike that results in a lock-out. Current unemployment insurance law already protects workers from lock-outs called by an employer when there is no strike notice.

Essentially, this bill will require that businesses subsidize the strike actions of their workers. Unemployment benefits must be maintained for workers who lose their job through no fault of their own.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger